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ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL, 1891.

THE Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, the 9th instant, at twelve o'clock, m., the President, Dr. GEORGE E. ELLIS, in the chair.

After the reading of the record of the last stated meeting and the list of donors to the Library during the last month, the President announced the reception of another large and valuable gift of historical manuscripts from the senior Vice-President, Mr. Francis Parkman, and read the following letter :—

BOSTON, 9 April, 1891.

GEORGE E. ELLIS, D.D.,

President of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

DEAR SIR,— I beg to offer for the acceptance of the Society the manuscripts indicated in the list enclosed herewith, and consisting of twenty-one volumes of papers copied from originals in France, England, and Canada, two autograph documents, and one which may or may not be an autograph, but is no doubt contemporary with the author.

The conditions to be the same as those attached to my former contributions of manuscripts to the library of the Society.

Yours very faithfully,

F. PARKMAN.

Manuscripts given to the Massachusetts Historical Society by Francis Parkman, 9 April, 1891.

Lettre d'un Habitant de Louisbourg, 1745.

Copies from Archives du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, 1629—1686.

“	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	1714—1755.
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“	“	Public Record Office, 1693—1711.
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“	“	“	“	1711—1725.
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“	“	“	“	1744—1746.
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“	“	“	“	1746—1749.
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“	“	Correspondance Officielle, 2 ^{me} Série, vols. IX.—XI.
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“	“	“	3 ^{me}	“	“	II.
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“	“	“	“	“	“	V.—VII.
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“	“	“	“	“	“	VIII.—XII.
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Copies from Archives de la Marine, 1660-1671.

“ “ “ “ 1704-1709.

“ “ “ “ 1709-1737.

“ “ “ “ 1737-1759.

“ “ “ Nationales, 1598-1759.

“ “ “ Compagnie du Castor.

Dupuis, Troubles du Canada, 1728.

Documents relating to Acadia, the Abenakis, etc., 3 vols.

Also the following manuscripts:—

Journal de Jean Cavelier, brother of La Salle.

Journal of Rev. Stephen Williams, beginning at Louisbourg, 18 July, 1745, and ending at —, Jan. 1749.

Also a contemporary manuscript of one of the most important documents on the beginnings of Louisiana, *The Relation of Penicant*, 1698-1721. Charlevoix used it; and French, in his Louisiana Historical Collections, printed a translation of parts of it, from a very imperfect copy.

It was thereupon voted, That the special thanks of the Society be presented to Mr. Parkman for this additional gift to the Library.

Dr. SAMUEL A. GREEN then said:—

Many years ago, the Historical Society reprinted in one of the volumes of its Collections (third series, IV.) a series of tracts relating to the attempts to convert to Christianity the Indians of New England. They are seven in number, and were published originally in London, near the middle of the seventeenth century; and most of them appeared under the auspices of the Corporation for propagating the Gospel among the Indians. They give a very good account of the natives at that time, and of their religious instruction, as well as of other matters about them, then attracting public notice in England. With one exception the names of the authors or compilers of these several pamphlets appear on the titlepage. The anonymous tract is entitled: “The Day-Breaking, if not the Sun-Rising of the Gospell with the Indians in New-England,” and was published in the year 1647. It is the first in the series, and has a short preface, addressed “To the Reader,” as follows:—

Hee that pen'd these following Relations, is a Minister of Christ in New England, so eminently godly and faithfull, that what he here reports, as an eye or an eare witnesse, is not to be questioned; Were he willing his name should bee mentioned, it would bee an abundant, if not a redundant, Testimoniall to all that know him.

NATHAN. WARDE.

In a note to this preface, the Publishing Committee of the Society ascribed the authorship of the pamphlet to the Reverend John Eliot; but there is internal evidence that he did not write it. While no authority is given for their statement, there are several passages in the tract which go to show that it was the production of another person. Without any doubt Eliot is the preacher alluded to in these places, as he was the earliest minister to learn the Indian language as well as the most practised scholar in that tongue. His knowledge of the dialect, however, had its limitations, and some years after this period he himself lamented the want of skill in expressing his thoughts (Dr. Francis's Life of Eliot, p. 44). The following quotations from the volume are specimens of such passages:

These things were spoken by him who had preached to them in their owne language, borrowing now and then some small helpe from the Interpreter whom wee brought with us, and who could oftentimes expresse our minds more distinctly then any of us could; but this wee perceived, that a few words from the Preacher were more regarded then many from the *Indian Interpreter* (page 5).

This Catechisme being soone ended, hee that preached to them, began thus (speaking to them in their own language) *viz.* *Wee are come to bring you good newes &c. . . .* (page 9).

. . . but this last dayes worke wherein God set his seale from heaven of acceptance of our little, makes those of us who are able, to resolve to adventure thorow frost and snow, lest the fire goe out of their hearts for want of a little more fewell: to which we are the more incouraged, in that the next day after our being with them, one of the Indians came to his house who preacht to them to speake with him, who in private conference wept exceedingly, and said that all that night the Indians could not sleepe, partly with trouble of minde, and partly with wondring at the things they heard preacht amongst them . . . (page 14).

November 26 [1646]. I could not goe my selfe, but heard from those who went of a third meeting; the Indians having built more Wigwams in the wonted place of meeting to attend upon the Word the

more readily. The preacher understanding how many of the Indians discouraged their fellowes in this worke, and threatening death to some if they heard any more, spake therefore unto them, &c., . . . (page 17).

. . . for the Saturday night after this third meeting (as I am informed from that man of God who then preached to them) there came to his house one *Wampas* a wise and sage Indian, . . . (page 18).

. . . for hee that preacheth to them professeth hee never yet used any of their words in his prayers . . . (page 21).

Hee that God hath raised up and enabled to preach unto them, is a man (you know) of a most sweet, humble, loving, gratioust and enlarged spirit, whom God hath blest, and surely will still delight in, & do good by (page 21).

Whatever doubt may attend these several other allusions, the reference in the last extract is clearly to Eliot, and it is equally certain that he would not have used this language about himself.

After an examination of the subject, I found that the Reverend Dr. Convers Francis, in his Life of Eliot, had reached the same conclusion concerning the authorship; and in the Appendix to the book (page 346), he so states the fact. Two years previously, he had been one of the Publishing Committee, under whose supervision and editorial care the volume of Collections containing these tracts was printed, and perhaps his attention was then called to the matter.

In the Appendix (page 46) to a discourse preached at Natick, on February 17, 1830, by the Reverend Dr. Alexander Young, it is said, on the authority of Christopher C. Baldwin, at that time Librarian of the American Antiquarian Society at Worcester, where the original editions of these pamphlets are found, that the Reverend John Wilson, of Boston, was the author; and the presumption seems to lie wholly in that direction. In the "First Part" of the Brinley Catalogue (page 53), Mr. Trumbull, who prepared the notes to the titles, says that "It was, probably, written by Thos. Shepard"; and in the John Carter Brown Catalogue it is also attributed to the same person. A comparison of the anonymous tract with "The Clear Sun-shine of the Gospel breaking forth upon the Indians in New-England," by Thomas Shepard, of Cambridge, — which follows it in the volume of Collections, and was printed originally in the year 1648, — fails to show any close

resemblance in the literary style of the two productions. Furthermore, certain words are spelled differently in the two: "Waaubon" and "Noonatomen" in the one are written, respectively, "Waubon" and "Noonanetum" in the other; and "Pawwaws" becomes "Powwaws." When the tract was printed, Wilson had published but one or two books, and throughout a long life was the author of only a few works; while during the same period Shepard was a voluminous writer. This fact, of little weight in itself, is entitled to some consideration by the side of Warde's Preface to the pamphlet.

Governor Winthrop, in his "History of New England," under date of March 19, 1646-47,—"19, (1.)"—says:—

The success of Mr. Eliot's labors in preaching to the Indians appears in a small book set forth by Mr. Shepherd and by other observations in the country (ii. 309).

This extract, I think, refers to the above-mentioned pamphlet which bears Shepard's name as the author, although the entry in the Journal was made apparently before that tract was printed, and even before the so-called Eliot's tract was printed. The probable explanation of this anomaly is that the entries were written at a period subsequent to the events which they severally describe. The appearance of Winthrop's original manuscript seems to justify this supposition, as both the color of the ink and the handwriting are consistent with the theory.

The suggestion to reprint the series of Indian tracts evidently came originally from Dr. Young, who makes it in a note (page 46), at the end of his discourse just referred to. He there recommends to the Historical Society, though it was before his membership, that this series be added to the other treasures of the Collections.

The Rev. EDWARD G. PORTER presented a photographic copy of a page of the church record kept at Fairfield, Connecticut, by the younger Andrew Eliot, and said:—

On the occasion of a recent visit to New York, I stopped over at Fairfield, Connecticut, to pursue some local studies in the history of that ancient town. Through the kindness of a friend at Southport, I obtained access to the old church records, and found, among other interesting matters, the following entry of marriage:—

"The Hon:^{ble} John Hancock Esq^r and Miss Dorothy Quincy both of Boston were married at Fairfield Augst 28th 1775.

"p^r Andrew Eliot V. D. M."

This is written in the bold and beautiful style of the time, and is almost equal to copperplate engraving. An excellent full-size photograph of the whole page has been made for me, and I take pleasure in presenting a copy of it to the Society.

It will be observed that Andrew Eliot, like his predecessor Noah Hobart, uniformly appended to his official signature the old ministerial title V. D. M. (*Verbi Dei Minister*), as was often the case in the last century. Mr. Eliot was the son of Andrew Eliot, D.D., the well-known minister of the New North Church in Boston, and a brother of Dr. John Eliot, one of the founders of this Society. He was ordained in Fairfield, June 22, 1774, and continued in the pastorate there until his death in 1805. During the siege of Boston, Fairfield was a welcome asylum to several Boston people, among whom were Mr. Eliot's mother, three sisters and a brother, and Mrs. Lydia Hancock.

The Hancocks were intimate friends of Thaddeus Burr, Esq., one of the leading citizens of Fairfield, an ardent patriot, and at this time a member of the town committee of war. He was also at various periods Deputy of the General Court, Justice of the Peace, and High Sheriff of the County. His fine colonial mansion was a prominent object in the centre of the village, on the south side of the main road leading to New York. Here he dispensed a sumptuous hospitality, and here Hancock was married, amid surroundings entirely in accord with his own taste and habit of life.

Fairfield suffered an irreparable loss on the 8th of July, 1779, when nearly all its principal buildings, public and private, were reduced to ashes by the British troops under General Tryon. In that memorable fire Thaddeus Burr's house was destroyed with its valuable contents. After the war (in 1793), when Mr. Burr undertook to rebuild, Governor Hancock, with characteristic generosity, made him a present of the necessary lumber and glass.

The date of Hancock's marriage, as given here by the officiating clergyman, exposes a slight error found in an editorial

note in vol. xvi. p. 299, of our Proceedings, where it is given as "4 Sept."

A curious illustration of the "touch of nature that makes the whole world kin" is this record of the Hancock-Quincy nuptials contrasted with that immediately preceding:—

"Jack Negro Servant to David Barlow of Fairfield Mary Negro Servant to Deacon Hill of Greenfield were married July 12th 1775.

"p^r Andrew Eliot V. D. M."

It is interesting to know that several members of this Society, of Plymouth origin, are connected with the Burrs, Hobarts, and other old-time families of Fairfield.

The Hon. HENRY S. NOURSE presented an indented bill of twenty shillings, issued in February, 1690, by order of the General Court, with the signatures of Penn Townsend, Adam Winthrop, and Tim. Thornton, Committee, and said:—

At the meeting of the Massachusetts Historical Society in February, 1863, the President exhibited a five-shilling note of the first paper money issued in America, dated Dec. 10, 1690, which he suggested might be unique. Dr. Felt, in his "History of Massachusetts Currency," acknowledged that he had never seen a specimen of this issue; and doubtless very few notes escaped the destruction by fire to which, by order of the General Court, they were consigned, after redemption by the Colonial Treasurer.

I bring, for the Society's acceptance, a twenty-shilling note of this early currency of Massachusetts, dated Feb. 3, 1690 [-1]. Between this specimen and that exhibited here in 1863, a fac-simile of which is given at page 428 of the sixth volume of the Proceedings, there are noteworthy differences. The five-shilling note is much larger, is obviously wholly written; and the signatures attached to it were John Phillips, Adam Winthrop, and Penn Townsend. The note now presented appears to be printed, at least in part; and instead of John Phillips, Tim. Thornton is of the committee signing it.

Mr. HAMILTON A. HILL said:—

So much interest has been awakened of late in Richard Henry Dana, Jr., and his writings, by the publication and wide

circulation of his Life, that I am led to call attention to a letter which has recently come into my possession, written by him in the autumn of 1841 to Moxon, the English publisher, in reference to the book which he was then bringing out in Boston under the title of "The Seaman's Friend," and of which Moxon published an edition in London under the title of "The Seaman's Manual." There is reference also in the letter to a work by Washington Allston then in press, which I suppose was "The Romance of Monaldi," published anonymously, according to Dr. Allibone, in 1841. This is the letter:—

BOSTON, Oct. 2, 1841.

EDWARD MOXON, Esq.

DEAR SIR,—I send you a copy of my new book, which I have held back from publication until after the sailing of the steamer. It will be published in this city, New York, and Philadelphia on Monday the 4th inst.

Owing to the default or mistake of my printer, the book is printed on a very different paper from what I had intended. The volume should have been one third thicker, at least, and on a whiter page. I sell for one dollar, there being a good deal of close print and five plates.

I have taken care that no copy shall get abroad until after the sailing of the steamer; and told Little & Brown, who wished to send to Murray, that you were getting out an edition with alterations and notes for the English market.

Allow me to assure you that I feel very grateful to you for your very handsome offer, which is the more pleasing being of free grace and not of any claim or merit of my own.

I have informed Mr. Allston of your offer to him. All his friends think it will be an excellent thing, and that you will make the book sell. Little & Brown are printing for him here, paying a percentage on every copy sold. Mr. A., of course, wishes them to have the advantage of an English market if they had taken any steps to secure it. They have not, as they inform me. Therefore I feel at liberty to say, for Mr. A., that you can republish if you choose.

Mr. Little desires me to say to you that he will send you the proof sheets by the steamer of Oct. 15th. If, instead of printing yourself, you would like to sell some of their edition, they will send you 200 copies. The proof sheets will go at all events; the copies, if you request them.

Will you favour me by saying to Captain Jones that I have written to Washington for the document he desired, and am in hourly expectation of receiving it. I shall be most happy to be of any service to him or

yourself in this way. The document in question I can obtain by simply a letter to an official there to whom I have been introduced. If you will at the same time mention to Captain J. that I feel much indebted to him for the interest he has taken in my narrative and for the efforts he has made in my behalf, which I have heard of from various quarters,—the Appletons, Sedgwicks, Sumner, and Pres. Woods, etc., you will much oblige me. I shall expect him (in case the rascally freebooters, as I assure you all sound people here consider them, on our frontier get McLeod into trouble) to extend to me and my house an especial protection; and to leave me and my fig-tree standing an oasis in the desert he and his fleet will be ordered to make of our city and suburbs.

As the steamer sails in an hour and a half, I must conclude more hastily than I intended.

Most sincerely and respectfully yours,

RICH^D. H. DANA, JR.

I have also in my possession a letter written by Mr. Dana, April 28, 1876, to our associate, Mr. Clement H. Hill, who, with Mr. William G. Russell, had just made a journey to Washington, to urge upon members of the Senate the confirmation of Mr. Dana as Minister to the Court of St. James, in which it is said: "I wish to assure you how deeply I feel your kindness, and how valuable your services were."

The Hon. MELLEN CHAMBERLAIN said that when at the January meeting he offered for publication a copy of Daniel Leonard's Memorial, he alluded to the fact that John Adams for more than forty years supposed that his old friend Jonathan Sewall, instead of Leonard, was the writer of the "Massachusetts Papers" to which he replied under the signature of "Novanglus"; and at the same time he quoted from a letter of Mr. John Eliot, lately published in the third volume of the Belknap Papers, showing that Leonard's secret, notwithstanding his care to preserve it, was known, or at least suspected. But when he made his remarks he had forgotten that John Trumbull alluded to the controversy in his "M'Fingal"—the first two cantos of which were published in 1775—in a way which points to Leonard as the author, and makes it quite clear that Sewall was not. During nearly a year, in 1773 and 1774, Trumbull was a student in the law office of John Adams, and had excellent opportunities for knowing the Boston pa-

tricts, as well as what was going on in and about that town; and it was doubtless in part owing to this fact that the descriptive portions of his poem are so lifelike. The passage is as follows:—

“ Did not our Massachusettensis
For your conviction strain his senses;
Scrawl every moment he could spare
From cards and barbers and the fair;
Show clear as sun in noonday heavens,
You did not feel a single grievance;
Demonstrate all your opposition
Spring from the eggs of foul sedition;
Swear he had seen the nest she laid in,
And knew how long she had been sitting;
Could tell exact what strength of heat is
Required to hatch her out Committees;
What shapes they take, and how much longer’s
The time before they grow t’ a Congress?
He white-wash’d Hutchinson, and varnish’d
Our Gage, who’d got a little tarnish’d;
Made them new masks, in time no doubt,
For Hutchinson’s was quite worn out;
Yet while he muddled all his head,
You did not heed a word he said.”

And having thus paid his respects to Leonard under the name of Massachusettensis, he proceeds to ask about Jonathan Sewall,—

“ Did not our grave Judge Sewall hit
The summit of newspaper wit?”¹

It is noticeable that while Trumbull, in an edition of his poems as late as 1820, in a foot-note states who Judge Sewall was, in a similar note to “ Massachusettensis ” he is silent as to his name.

Judge Chamberlain also said that there was another matter of no very great importance, but nevertheless of some interest, to which he would allude. Our late associate, Dr. Charles Deane, in preparing an edition of Wood’s “ New England’s Prospect ” for publication by the Prince Society, retained the preface to the edition printed in Boston in 1764, and called attention to our Proceedings, vol. vi. p. 334, in which our late associate, William Brigham, shows clearly that the preface of

¹ Trumbull’s Poems, vol. i. p. 28.

1764 was written by Nathaniel Rogers, a Boston merchant, who graduated at the University of Glasgow in 1755, received the degree of A.M. at Harvard College in 1762, and died in 1770.

Judge Chamberlain said he had not learned the time or place of Nathaniel Rogers's birth, nor the considerations which led to his honorary degree from Harvard College ; but that he was a man of considerable ability and varied reading was evident from the Preface of 1764, which alludes to questions then rife with intelligence and good sense, and in a style, apart from its punctuation, fresh and vigorous. These facts excited a desire for more information in regard to his personal history, and he would call attention to some facts not noticed in so far as he was aware. In the pamphlet collection of letters addressed to Thomas Whately, of London, by several persons in New England in the years 1767-1769, called the "Hutchinson Letters," is one by Nathaniel Rogers, dated Boston, Dec. 12, 1768, from which it appears that when it was understood that Governor Bernard would be recalled, as he was the following year, the programme among the loyalists was that Hutchinson, then Lieutenant-Governor, should succeed Bernard, and Andrew Oliver, then Secretary, should be advanced to the lieutenancy, which was ultimately carried out. This would create a vacancy in the Secretary's office ; and this office Nathaniel Rogers desired to fill, and to that end he wrote to Whately. But Rogers's death in 1770 defeated his object ; and Thomas Flucker, the father-in-law of General Knox, secured the place. The following extract will afford some information in respect to Rogers's relations to eminent people in England :—

" I will mention to you the gentlemen, who are acquainted with my views, and whose favorable approbation I have had, — Governor Pownall, Mr. John Pownall, and Dr. Franklin. My Lord Hillsborough is not unacquainted with it. I have, since I have been here, wrote Mr. Jackson upon the subject, and have by this vessel wrote Mr. Mauduit. I think my character stands fair. I have not been without application to public affairs, and have acquired some knowledge of our provincial affairs, and notwithstanding our many free conversations in England, I am considered here as on the government side, for which I have been often traduced both publicly and privately, and very lately have two or three slaps."

From the preface, as well as from the second clause of the last sentence, it might be inferred that Rogers at one time was a Whig in Boston politics, but went over to the Tories, and not long before his death received one of those "slaps" to which he refers in the following form: —

"A LIST of the Names of *those* who AUDACIOUSLY continue to counteract the UNITED SENTIMENTS of the Body of merchants thro'out NORTH AMERICA; by importing British Goods contrary to the Agreement."

Among the names appended is that of "Nathaniel Rogers (opposite Mr. Henderson Inches store Lower End of King Street.)" This was undoubtedly printed as a Broadside, and was also printed in Edes and Gill's North American Almanack, 1770, which may be seen in *fac-simile* in Winsor's "Narrative and Critical History," vol. vi. p. 79. A few lines from Sabine's Loyalists will give the sequel of this business:

"In 1770, while in New York, his effigy was suspended on a gallows and burnt. He ordered his carriage, and secretly left town at two o'clock next morning. He is described as a man about five feet eight inches high, pretty corpulent, round-shouldered, stoops a great deal, and generally appears in green and gold, or purple and gold. Of the affair in New York, Lieutenant-Governor Colden wrote the Earl of Hillsborough, May 16, 1770: 'The party in opposition to the present Administration join with the people in Boston in measures to prevent importation, and for that purpose stole late in the night last week a procession of the mob to expose a Boston importer, who happened to come to this place. The magistrates knew nothing of the design till it was too late, otherwise I believe it would have been prevented.'" ¹

Professor WILLIAM W. GOODWIN then presented the annual report of the Council.

Report of the Council.

The end of another year finds our Society entering upon its second century. The celebration of the centennial anniversary on the 24th of January last was a memorable event, well worthy of the Society and of the occasion; and the record of the ceremonies will be included in the next volume of the

¹ Sabine's American Loyalists, vol. ii. pp. 236, 237.

Proceedings. During the year we have lost by death three of our Resident Members, Henry Martyn Dexter, Charles Devens, Samuel Crocker Cobb; one Honorary Member, George Bancroft; and one Corresponding Member, Henry Tuke Parker. Four Resident Members have been elected, William Steele Shurtleff, Abbott Lawrence Lowell, Benjamin Marston Watson, Samuel Edward Herrick; and two Corresponding Members, the Abbé Henry Raymond Casgrain and Alexander Brown. There are now three vacancies in our list of Resident Members.

It has been frequently suggested that the custom of inviting members to address the Society at a regular meeting on occasion of the death of an associate should be given up or in some way modified. Of course there will be occasions on which the Society will wish to do honor to the memory of distinguished associates without even waiting for the occurrence of a regular meeting. In these extraordinary cases special meetings will always be called. But it is suggested that it shall be the understanding, after the beginning of the new year, without any formal vote, that the death of a member shall be communicated to the Society in the usual manner by the President, that a member shall be appointed by the Council to prepare a memoir to be published by the Society, but that no formal eulogies shall be expected from other members. At the same time it will be understood that this is no binding rule which will prevent any member from addressing the Society in memory of a deceased colleague on any occasion.

During the year the Society has issued the following publications:—

Proceedings, 2d series, Vol. V., 1889-1890.

Also three serial numbers of the Proceedings, 2d series, Vol. VI. (from May, 1890, to January, 1891), including the Centennial Commemoration on January 24. The fourth number (February and March meetings, 1891) is laid on the table to-day (April 9).

Collections, 6th series, Vol. IV., containing Belknap Papers, Part III.

The last, which may fitly be called the Centennial Volume of the Society, closed our publications for the year. That word can be applied to the volume not only from the date of its ap-

pearance, but because its title bears the name of that honored and laborious man, Dr. Belknap, whom we consent to regard as our founder. Our Cabinet contained a sufficient number of his letters and other papers to fill this substantial volume. We are indebted to our associate, Mr. C. C. Smith, for the most careful and instructive service which he has rendered as Editor of the volume.

The following publications have been made by members of the Society :—

Richard Henry Dana. *A Biography.* In two volumes. By Charles Francis Adams.

The Norman Period of the English Church. By Alexander V. G. Allen.

Some Descendants of William Sawyer of Newbury, Mass. By William S. Appleton.

Twenty-first Report of the Record Commissioners of the City of Boston. Dorchester Births, Marriages, and Deaths to the end of 1825. By William S. Appleton.

Journal of Lieutenant Isaac Bangs, April 1 to July 29, 1776. Edited by Edward Bangs.

Memorial of the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati. Edited by James M. Bugbee.

The Begum's Daughter. By Edwin L. Bynner.

The Navigation Laws. By Edward Channing.

Address at the Celebration of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Founding of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, Philadelphia, April 15, 1890. By Charles Devens.

Chapters on the Theory and History of Banking. By Charles F. Dunbar.

Boston Unitarianism, 1820-50. A Study of the life and work of Nathaniel Langdon Frothingham. By Octavius B. Frothingham.

Syntax of the Moods and Tenses of the Greek Verb. Rewritten and enlarged. By William W. Goodwin.

The First Census of Massachusetts [1765]. By Samuel A. Green. Groton Historical Series, No. 1 of Vol. III. By Samuel A. Green.

Necrology of the American Antiquarian Society, October 21, 1890. By Samuel A. Green.

The Northern Boundary of Massachusetts in its relations to New Hampshire: a Part of the Council's Report made to the American Antiquarian Society, at Worcester, on Oct. 21, 1890. By Samuel A. Green.

James Freeman Clarke. *Autobiography, Diary, and Correspondence.* Edited by Edward Everett Hale.

William and Anne Robinson of Dorchester, Mass.; their Ancestors and their Descendants. By Edward Doubleday Harris.

Epochs of American History. Edited by Albert B. Hart. The Colonies, 1492-1750, by Reuben G. Thwaites.

Introduction to the Study of Federal Government. [Harvard Historical Monographs, No. 2.] By Albert B. Hart.

Federal Constitution of the Swiss Confederation [of May 29, 1874]. [Old South Leaflets, General Series, No. 18.] By Albert B. Hart.

Land Transfer Reform. By John T. Hassam.

American Sonnets. Selected and edited by Thomas W. Higginson and E. H. Bigelow.

Over the Tea Cups. By Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Essays on Government. By Abbott Lawrence Lowell.

American Statesmen Series. Edited by John T. Morse, Jr. John Jay, by George Pellew.

Eleventh Annual Report of the Archaeological Institute of America, May, 1890. By Charles Eliot Norton.

The Birth, Marriage and Death Register of Lancaster, Massachusetts, 1643-1850. By Henry S. Nourse.

King's Chapel Sermons. By Andrew P. Peabody.

Harvard Graduates whom I have known. By Andrew P. Peabody.

A Private Proof printed in order to preserve certain matters connected with the Boston Branch of the Perkins Family. By Augustus T. Perkins.

Principles of Political Economy. By Arthur L. Perry.

Scotch-Irish in New England. Read before the Scotch Society of America, at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, May 29, 1890. By Arthur L. Perry.

Address at the Dedication of Mark Hopkins Memorial Hall, Williams College, July 1, 1890. By Horace E. Scudder.

A Short History of the United States of America. By Horace E. Scudder.

Diocese of Massachusetts: The Enrichment of its Historical Collection, 1890. By Edmund F. Slafter.

The Discovery of America by the Northmen, 985-1015. A Discourse delivered before the New Hampshire Historical Society, April 24, 1888. By Edmund F. Slafter.

Land and its Rent. By Francis A. Walker.

Proceedings of the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati at a meeting held in Boston, Feb. 23, 1891, to take action on the decease of Samuel Crocker Cobb, President of the Society. Tribute by Winslow Warren.

A Topographical and Historical Description of Boston. By Nathaniel B. Shurtleff. Third edition. Edited by William H. Whitmore.

Twenty-second Report of the Record Commissioners of the City of Boston. Census of 1790 and Direct Tax, 1798. By William H. Whitmore.

A Bibliographical Sketch of the Laws of the Massachusetts Colony, from 1630 to 1686. By William H. Whitmore.

WILLIAM W. GOODWIN,
Senior Member at Large of the Council.

Mr. CHARLES C. SMITH, Treasurer, presented his report, and the report of the Auditing Committee, in print:—

Report of the Treasurer.

In compliance with the requirements of the By-Laws, Chapter VII., Article 1, the Treasurer respectfully submits his Annual Report, made up to March 31, 1891.

The special funds held by him are eleven in number, as they were at the date of his last Annual Report, and are as follows:—

I. THE APPLETON FUND, which was created Nov. 18, 1854, by a gift to the Society, from Nathan Appleton, William Appleton, and Nathaniel I. Bowditch, trustees under the will of the late Samuel Appleton, of stocks of the appraised value of ten thousand dollars. These stocks were subsequently sold for \$12,203, at which sum the fund now stands. The income is applicable to “the procuring, preserving, preparation, and publication of historical papers.”

II. THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL TRUST-FUND, which now stands, with the accumulated income, at \$10,000. This fund originated in a gift of two thousand dollars from the late Hon. David Sears, presented Oct. 15, 1855, and accepted by the Society Nov. 8, 1855. On Dec. 26, 1866, it was increased by a gift of five hundred dollars from Mr. Sears, and another of the same amount from our late associate, Mr. Nathaniel Thayer. The income must be appropriated in accordance with the directions in Mr. Sears’s declaration of trust in the printed Proceedings for November, 1855.

III. THE DOWSE FUND, which was given to the Society by George Livermore and Eben. Dale, executors of the will of the late Thomas Dowse, April 9, 1857, for the “safe keeping” of the Dowse Library. It amounts to \$10,000.

IV. THE PEABODY FUND, which was presented by the

late George Peabody, in a letter dated Jan. 1, 1867, and now stands at \$22,123. It is invested in the seven per cent bonds of the Boston and Albany Railroad Co., payable in 1892, for \$21,000, and a deposit in the Suffolk Savings Bank amounting, with the last addition of interest, in October, 1890, to \$788.91. The income is available only for the publication and illustration of the Society's Proceedings and Memoirs, and for the preservation of the Society's Historical Portraits.

V. THE SAVAGE FUND, which was a bequest from the late Hon. James Savage, received in June, 1873, and now stands on the books at the sum of \$6,000. The income is to be used for the increase of the Society's Library.

VI. THE ERASTUS B. BIGELOW FUND, which was given in February, 1881, by Mrs. Helen Bigelow Merriman, in recognition of her father's interest in the work of the Society. The original sum was one thousand dollars; but the interest up to this date having been added to the principal, it now stands at \$1,772.23. There is no restriction as to the use to be made of this fund.

VII. THE WILLIAM WINTHROP FUND, which amounts to the sum of \$3,000, and was received Oct. 13, 1882, under the will of the late William Winthrop, for many years a Corresponding Member of the Society. The income is to be applied "to the binding for better preservation of the valuable manuscripts and books appertaining to the Society."

VIII. THE RICHARD FROTHINGHAM FUND, which represents a gift to the Society, on the 23d of March, 1883, from the widow of our late Treasurer, of a certificate of twenty shares in the Union Stock Yard and Transit Co., of Chicago, of the par value of \$100 each, and of the stereotype plates of Mr. Frothingham's "Siege of Boston," "Life of Joseph Warren," and "Rise of the Republic." The fund stands on the Treasurer's books at \$3,000, exclusive of the copyright. There are no restrictions on the uses to which the income may be applied. During the year it became desirable to sell the shares of stock received from Mrs. Frothingham, and it was not thought desirable to make a separate investment of the proceeds; but in future the fund will be credited with its proportionate part of the consolidated income as well as with the sums received for copyright.

IX. THE GENERAL FUND, which now amounts to \$8,000.

It represents the following gifts and payments to the Society:—

1. A gift of two thousand dollars from the residuary estate of the late MARY PRINCE TOWNSEND, by the executors of her will, William Minot and William Minot, Jr., in recognition of which, by a vote of the Society, passed June 18, 1861, the Treasurer was "directed to make and keep a special entry in his account books of this contribution as the donation of Miss Mary P. Townsend."

2. A legacy of two thousand dollars from the late HENRY HARRIS, received in July, 1867.

3. A legacy of one thousand dollars from the late GEORGE BEMIS, received in March, 1879.

4. A gift of one hundred dollars from the late RALPH WALDO EMERSON, received in April, 1881.

5. A legacy of one thousand dollars from the late WILLIAMS LATHAM, received in May, 1884.

6. A bequest of five shares in the Cincinnati Gas-Light and Coke Co. from our late Recording Secretary, GEORGE DEXTER, received in June, 1884.

7. Six commutation fees of one hundred and fifty dollars each.

X. THE ANONYMOUS FUND, which originated in a gift of \$1,000 to the Society in April, 1887, communicated in a letter to the Treasurer printed in the Proceedings (2d series, vol. iii. pp. 277, 278). A further gift of \$250 was received from the same generous friend in April, 1888. The income up to the present time has been added to the principal. The fund now stands at \$1,534.03.

XI. THE WILLIAM AMORY FUND, which was a gift of \$3,000, under the will of our associate, the late WILLIAM AMORY, received Jan. 7, 1889. There are no restrictions on the uses to which the income may be applied.

The Treasurer also holds a deposit book in the Five Cent Savings Bank for \$100 and interest, which is applicable to the care and preservation of the beautiful model of the Brattle Street Church, deposited with us in April, 1877.

The Peabody Fund is invested separately. The other funds, which stand on the Treasurer's books at \$58,509.26, are represented in part by the following securities: \$10,000 in the five per cent mortgage bonds of the Chicago and West Michigan

Railroad Co., registered in the name of the Society, and payable in 1921; \$3,000 in the four per cent general mortgage bonds of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fé Railroad Co., and \$3,000 in the income bonds of the same corporation; \$1,000 in an eight per cent mortgage bond of the Quincy and Palmyra Railroad Co., payable in 1892; \$1,000 in a five per cent collateral trust bond of the Chicago Junction Railways and Union Stock Yard Co.; forty-four shares in the State National Bank of Boston, of the par value of \$100 each; fifty shares in the Merchants' National Bank of Boston, of the par value of \$100 each; thirty shares in the National Bank of Commerce of Boston, of the par value of \$100 each; thirty-four shares in the National Union Bank of Boston, of the par value of \$100 each; five shares in the Second National Bank of Boston, of the par value of \$100 each; ten shares in the Columbian National Bank, of Boston, of the par value of \$100 each; five shares in the Cincinnati Gas-Light and Coke Co., of the par value of \$100 each; and five shares in the Cincinnati Electric Light Co., of the par value of \$5 each. The aggregate amount at which these securities stand on the books is \$41,518.32. The balance (\$16,990.94) is an incumbrance on the real estate, and shows a reduction of \$4,611.74 during the year in the amount of our funds which have been temporarily invested in the building.

It should not be forgotten that besides the gifts and bequests represented by these funds, which the Treasurer is required to take notice of in his Annual Report, numerous gifts have been made to the Society from time to time, and expended for the purchase of the real estate, or in promoting the objects for which the Society was organized. A detailed account of these gifts was included in the Annual Report of the Treasurer, dated March 31, 1887, printed in the Proceedings, 2d series, vol. iii. pp. 291-296; and in the list of the givers there enumerated will be found the names of many honored associates, living or departed, and of other gentlemen, not members of the Society, who were interested in the promotion of historical studies. They gave liberally in the day of small things; and to them the Society is largely indebted for its present prosperity and usefulness.

The following abstracts and the trial balance show the present condition of the several accounts:—

CASH ACCOUNT.

1890.		DEBITS.
March 31.	To balance on hand	\$. 289.38
1891.		
March 31. To receipts as follows:—		
	General Account	10,880.99
	Investments	2,016.12
	Consolidated Income	1,920.97
	Income of Peabody Fund	1,470.00
	Income of Richard Frothingham Fund	152.80
	Commutation Fee	150.00
		—————
		\$16,880.26
March 31. To balance brought down		\$. 185.27

1891.		CREDITS.
March 31.	By payments as follows:—	
	Investments	\$6,948.00
	Income of Peabody Fund	2,643.63
	Income of Savage Fund	449.18
	Income of William Winthrop Fund	245.25
	Income of Appleton Fund	437.34
	Income of Massachusetts Historical Trust-Fund	2,278.52
	General Account	3,693.07
	By balance on hand	185.27
		—————
		\$16,880.26

GENERAL ACCOUNT.

1890.		DEBITS.
March 31.	To balance brought forward	\$. 3,419.40
1891.		
March 31. To sundry payments:—		
	Salaries of Librarian's Assistants	2,550.00
	Painting stairway, etc.	146.00
	Centennial Commemoration	94.25
	Printing, stationery, and postage	256.01
	Fuel and light	176.78
	Care of fire, etc.	298.59
	Miscellaneous expenses and repairs	171.44
	Consolidated Income	1,157.82
	Building Account	4,611.74
		—————
		\$12,882.03
March 31. To balance brought down		\$. 1,458.28

CREDITS.

1891. March 31. By sundry receipts:—

Rent of Building	\$9,000.00
Interest	24.82
Income of Dowse Fund	542.76
Admission Fees	100.00
Assessments	740.00
Sales of publications	1,016.17
By balance to new account	1,458.28
	<hr/>
	\$12,882.03

Income of Appleton Fund.

DEBITS.

1891.

March 31. To amount paid on account of binding	\$6.54
,, indexing Pickering MSS.	430.80
,, balance carried forward	2,298.75
	<hr/>
	\$2,736.09

1890.

CREDITS.

March 31. By balance brought forward	\$2,073.77
1891.	
March 31. ,, proportion of consolidated income	662.32
	<hr/>
March 31. By balance brought down	\$2,298.75

Income of William Winthrop Fund.

DEBITS.

1891.

March 31. To amount paid for binding	\$245.25
,, balance carried forward	88.58
	<hr/>
	\$283.83

1890.

CREDITS.

March 31. By balance brought forward	\$121.00
1891.	
March 31. ,, proportion of consolidated income	162.83
	<hr/>
March 31. By balance brought down	\$88.58

Income of Massachusetts Historical Trust-Fund.

DEBITS.

1891.

March 31. To amount paid on account of 6 Coll. IV.	\$2,278.52
March 31. To balance brought down	\$587.58

CREDITS.

1890.		
March 31.	By amount brought forward	\$1,148.18
1891.		
March 31.	„ proportion of consolidated income	542.76
„	„ balance carried forward	587.58
		<u><u>\$2,278.52</u></u>

Income of Richard Frothingham Fund.

CREDITS.

1890.		
March 31.	By balance brought forward	\$1,022.80
1891.		
March 31.	„ dividends received	80.00
„	„ copyright received	72.80
„	„ proportion of consolidated income	81.41
		<u><u>\$1,257.01</u></u>
March 31.	By amount brought down	\$1,257.01

Income of Douse Fund.

DEBITS.

1891.		
March 31.	To amount placed to credit of General Account	<u><u>\$542.76</u></u>

CREDITS.

1891.		
March 31.	By proportion of consolidated income	<u><u>\$542.76</u></u>

Income of Peabody Fund.

DEBITS.

1890.		
March 31.	To balance brought forward	\$2,371.50
1891.		
March 31.	„ amount paid for editing, printing, binding, etc.	2,555.53
„	„ „ „ „ repairs of portraits, etc.	88.10
		<u><u>\$5,015.13</u></u>
March 31.	To balance brought down	\$3,545.13

CREDITS.

1891.		
March 31.	By one year's interest on railroad bonds	\$1,470.00
„	„ balance carried forward	3,545.13
		<u><u>\$5,015.13</u></u>

Income of Savage Fund.

DEBITS.	
1891.	
March 31.	To amount paid for books
	<u>\$449.18</u>
March 31.	To balance brought down
	\$3.02
CREDITS.	
1890.	
March 31.	By balance brought forward
1891.	\$120.51
March 31.	„ proportion of consolidated income
„ balance carried forward	325.65 3.02
	<u>\$449.18</u>

TRIAL BALANCE.

DEBITS.	
Cash	\$185.27
Real Estate	103,280.19
Investments	63,641.32
Income of Peabody Fund	3,545.13
Income of Massachusetts Historical Trust-Fund	587.58
Income of Savage Fund	3.02
General Account	1,458.28
	<u>\$172,700.79</u>

CREDITS.

Building Account	\$86,453.19
Appleton Fund	12,203.00
Dowse Fund	10,000.00
Massachusetts Historical Trust-Fund	10,000.00
Peabody Fund	22,123.00
Savage Fund	6,000.00
Erastus B. Bigelow Fund	1,772.23
William Winthrop Fund	3,000.00
Richard Frothingham Fund	3,000.00
General Fund	8,000.00
Anonymous Fund	1,534.03
William Amory Fund	3,000.00
Income of Appleton Fund	2,298.75
Income of William Winthrop Fund	38.58
Income of Richard Frothingham Fund	1,257.01
Income of General Fund	1,650.20
Income of William Amory Fund	370.80
	<u>\$172,700.79</u>

Though the Society has published a volume of Proceedings and a volume of Collections since the last Annual Meeting, the

Treasurer has been able to continue uninterruptedly the reinvestment of the funds which have been an incumbrance on the real estate. The sum thus applied during the year was \$4,611.74 against \$4,697.94 in the preceding year. The cost of the volume of Belknap Papers was charged to the Income of the Massachusetts Historical Trust-Fund, and somewhat exceeded the amount to the credit of that account. It will be necessary, therefore, to allow the income of that fund to accumulate, after extinguishing this balance, before further charges are made to it. The cost of the volume of Winthrop Papers now in preparation will be defrayed by the Income of the Appleton Fund. The Income of the Peabody Fund is charged with so large a debt that after the publication of the volume of Proceedings now in press, it will probably be desirable to charge the cost of the next volume to the Income of the General Fund. No further payment has been authorized by the Committee having in charge the indexing of the Trumbull Papers; and the sum of \$307 still remains subject to their order, and can be used under their direction for some similar specific work. It is gratifying to add that there was a considerable increase in the amount received from sales of publications,— \$1,016.17 against \$580.15 in the year ending March 31, 1890.

CHARLES C. SMITH, *Treasurer.*

BOSTON, March 31, 1891.

Report of the Auditing Committee.

The undersigned, a Committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Treasurer of the Massachusetts Historical Society, as made up to March 31, 1891, have attended to that duty, and report that they find them correctly kept and properly vouched; that the securities held by the Treasurer for the several funds correspond with the statement in his Annual Report; that the balance of cash on hand is satisfactorily accounted for; and that the Trial Balance is accurately taken from the Ledger.

LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, *{* Committee.
HENRY G. DENNY, *{*

BOSTON, April 6, 1891.

The LIBRARIAN presented his annual report as follows:—

Report of the Librarian.

During the past year there have been added to the Library:

Books	608
Pamphlets	1,406
Volumes of newspapers	8
Unbound volumes of newspapers	24
Broadsides	68
Maps	4
Volumes of manuscripts	9
Manuscripts	154
In all	2,281

Of the books added, 480 have been given, and 128 bought. Of the pamphlets added, 1,284 have been given, 116 bought, and 6 procured by exchange.

From the income of the Savage Fund, there have been bought 128 volumes, 116 pamphlets, and 1 broadside; and 36 volumes have been bound and 1 volume repaired at the charge of the same fund.

From the income of the William Winthrop Fund, 111 volumes have been bound, and 15 repaired.

Of the books added to the Rebellion Department, 22 have been given and 45 bought; and of the pamphlets added, 50 have been given and 30 bought. There are now in this collection 1,856 volumes, 4,540 pamphlets, 784 broadsides, and 105 maps.

In the collection of manuscripts there are 738 volumes, 161 unbound volumes, 75 pamphlets with manuscript notes, and 7,017 manuscripts.

The Library contains at the present time about 35,200 volumes, including the files of bound newspapers, the bound manuscripts, and the Dowse Collection. The number of pamphlets, including duplicates, is 91,145; and the number of broadsides, including duplicates, is 3,539.

During the year there have been taken out 43 books and 5 pamphlets, and all have been returned.

Respectfully submitted,

SAMUEL A. GREEN, *Librarian.*

BOSTON, April 9, 1891.

The Cabinet-keeper's report was presented by Dr. OLIVER.

Report of the Cabinet-keeper.

There have been presented to the Cabinet during the past year 8 photographs, 3 engravings, 2 etchings, 3 medals, 1 lithograph, and 5 miscellaneous articles of more or less value. There have also been placed on deposit a portrait of the Hon. Samuel Quincy, at one time Solicitor-General of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, and of his wife, Mrs. Hannah Quincy, — both painted by Copley.

A list of the donations for the year is appended to this report: —

A small box made of metal and covered with a thin layer of porcelain, bearing the inscription "May the *Blossoms of LIBERTY*, never be BLIGHTED." Given by Samuel Breck Crut.

A copper medal struck and distributed in the municipal parade, Philadelphia, Dec. 16, 1879. Given by Fitch Edward Oliver.

A photograph of the Turner Monument in the old cemetery in Scituate, taken by W. F. Bates, of North Scituate. Received by mail.

A medal found on the battle-field of White Plains, a few years ago. It was struck to commemorate the taking of Louisburg, July 26, 1758. Given by Fitch Edward Oliver.

A photograph of the full-length model by John Rogers of a proposed monument to the Apostle Eliot. Given by Robert C. Winthrop.

An etching of Alexander Hamilton by Frederick Tudor Stuart, the only proof impression on India paper. Given by Mr. Stuart.

A lithograph of Samuel Crocker by B. W. Thayer & Co., Boston, after a daguerreotype by H. B. King. Given by Samuel C. Cobb.

A 12½ cent certificate of the Corporation of Jersey City, July 31, 1837. Given by Samuel C. Cobb.

A "bearers ring" inscribed "W. Burnet. Mass. Gub. Ob. 7 Sep. 1729. AE 42." The death's head which once appeared on the ring has been worn off. Given by Miss Sarah Chandler.

A photograph by G. Watmough Webster of the base of a Roman column, *in situ*, and mediaeval sculptured gravestone, discovered in Watergate Street, Chester, England, 1890. Given by William Everett.

A photograph by F. W. Clark, England, of a pair of bellows said to have been owned by Sir Walter Raleigh, bearing the inscriptions "R" and "1596" on one face, and an embossed picture on the other face. Given by Charles J. Hubbard.

A bronze medal by Andrieu of Louis XVIII., struck to commemorate the restoration of the equestrian statue of Henry IV., Oct. 28, 1817. Given by Charles P. Curtis.

Three engravings: Benjamin Franklin, by Edwin; Hon. John C. Phillips, by Savigne, after a painting by H. Williams; and Cotton Mather, by H. B. Hall & Sons, New York. Given by Samuel A. Green.

A half-tone view of the Petersham Memorial Building. Given by Francis H. Lee.

A photograph by Mr. DeLamater of an oil painting of Rev. Richard Mather in the Library of the Connecticut Historical Society at Hartford. Given by Mrs. Mary Mather Brownell, of Bristol, Conn.

A photograph of the Old State House, Boston, taken by Wilfred A. French. Given by Mr. French.

An etching of Rev. Stephen Williams by Miss Annie Sophia Pratt. Given by John F. Pratt.

A photograph of the Historical Hall of the Old Colony Historical Society at Taunton. Given by Robert C. Winthrop.

An indented bill of twenty shillings, Massachusetts Bay Colony, Feb. 3, 1690. Given by Henry S. Nourse.

A photographic copy of the record of the marriage of John Hancock and Dorothy Quincy, Fairfield, Conn., August 28, 1775. Given by Edward G. Porter.

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH EDWARD OLIVER, *Cabinet-keeper.*

BOSTON, April 9, 1891.

Mr. STEPHEN SALISBURY, from the Committee to examine the Library and Cabinet, presented their report:—

Report of the Committee to examine the Library and Cabinet.

The Committee appointed to examine and report upon the condition of the Library and Cabinet have attended to that duty.

They find in all departments of the Library evidences of care and of a scrupulous attention to the various suggestions which from time to time have been offered, so that it is now difficult to consider any change that will not be met by the reflection of regret at a lack of funds and the inadequacy of accommodations. The books are well classified, and are not more crowded than the restriction of space obliges. In the Dowse Library, the Committee were led to notice that many valuable and beautiful volumes were necessarily consigned to and hidden in the closets under the cases; but they do not feel ready to recommend glass fronts so liable to be broken, or open shelves which expose the priceless bindings to damage,

and are content to await the desired future when the whole of this unique collection will find a proper position and display in the room that shall be provided for its exclusive occupation. Work upon the card catalogue keeps pace with the new acquisitions. Some of the bound newspaper files require new bindings; and when this is done the advantages of the heavy cloth backs, of which we have some specimens, may well be considered.

Among the bound manuscripts, it was observed that many needed rebinding, as any use of them in their present state of dilapidation is a menace to the safety of the contents; also that manuscripts bound and unbound are sometimes so packed away in closets that many separate parcels would require to be displaced and frequently handled in any search that might be instituted for a desired title.

In this connection it is thought best to introduce a suggestion of one of the members of this Committee, — Mr. Upham, — having reference to this department of collections, which is by far the most valuable of our treasures. This gentleman writes thus in regard to securing a fund, the income from which shall be expended in making copies of our choicest manuscripts: “In regard to the idea I suggested of a fund for copying valuable manuscripts, it seems undeniably true that manuscripts ought to claim the first attention among the collections of an historical society in the matter of security for preservation. Rare books if lost can be replaced, but the loss of manuscripts is irretrievable. Manuscripts are becoming more and more understood to be the best materials for history. At the same time they are the most difficult things to preserve from the ravages of worms, dust, mould, and general wear and tear. It is probable that when another couple of centuries shall have passed a very large proportion of the most valuable manuscripts now existing will have become utterly lost or illegible. Would it not be well if an historical society that undertakes the trust of holding for a remote future these records of the past, might have a fund especially devoted to the object of preserving by *copies*, made on one side of the paper, so that they might be bound in volumes of uniform size, of the most important of its manuscript collections? The income of a fund of \$10,000 would keep at least one person constantly at work, and in a few years a most creditable

library of papers, easily read, accessible, indexed, and of practical value and convenience would be developed. These copies, being so much more convenient to read and refer to, would save the originals from much handling, as they would be required only occasionally for verification."

It may be added to this strong plea, that very probably during the careful perusal of the copyist many unknown and exceedingly important buried facts would come to light that would at once inspire and infuse new energy into the deliberations of our Society ; and it is hoped that the above recommendation in regard to the duplication of manuscripts will lead to an examination of this department, when the utility of the scheme thus outlined would commend itself.

How much the Society is indebted to the time, thought, and experience of our Librarian, Dr. Samuel A. Green, and of our Cabinet-keeper, Dr. Fitch Edward Oliver, came often to the minds of your examining Committee. They also desire to record their satisfaction with the services and courtesy of the Assistant Librarians, Mr. Julius H. Tuttle and Mr. Alfred B. Page.

STEPHEN SALISBURY,
MELLEN CHAMBERLAIN, }
W^m P. UPHAM, } Committee.

April 9, 1891.

The several reports were accepted, and referred to the Committee for Publishing the Proceedings.

Professor GOODWIN, from the Committee appointed to nominate officers for the ensuing year, reported the following list, and the gentlemen named were duly elected by ballot.

President.

GEORGE EDWARD ELLIS.

Vice-Presidents.

FRANCIS PARKMAN.
CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.

Recording Secretary.

EDWARD JAMES YOUNG.

Corresponding Secretary.

JUSTIN WINSOR.

Treasurer.

CHARLES CARD SMITH.

Librarian.

SAMUEL ABBOTT GREEN.

Cabinet-keeper.

FITCH EDWARD OLIVER.

Members at Large of the Council.

ROGER WOLCOTT.

EDWARD BANGS.

EDWARD JACKSON LOWELL.

EDWARD GRIFFIN PORTER.

HENRY FITCH JENKS.

On motion of Dr. SAMUEL A. GREEN, it was voted that the thanks of the Society be presented to Messrs. William W. Goodwin and Josiah P. Quincy, retiring members of the Council, for their valuable services.

A serial containing the proceedings at the meetings in February and March — the fourth of the new volume — was placed on the table.

After the adjournment the members lunched with the President at his residence in Marlborough Street.